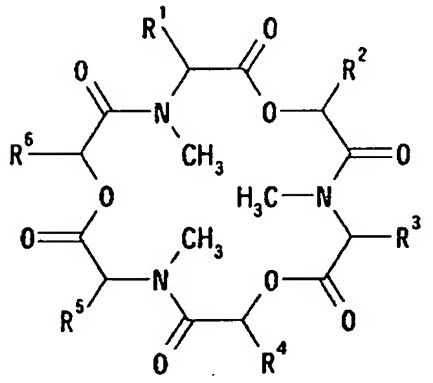
CLAIMS

1. An ABC transporter inhibitor which comprises as an active ingredient a cyclic depsipeptide or its optical isomer or racemate of the formula (I):

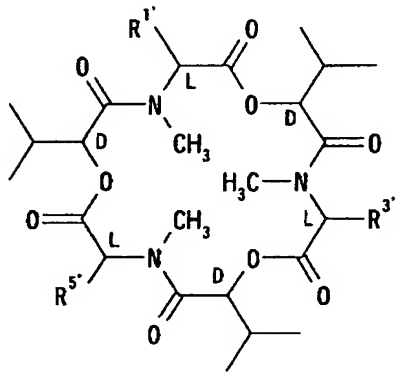


(I)

wherein R^1, R^3 and R^5 are each independently a group selected from linear or branched alkyl having up to 8 carbon atoms; hydroxyalkyl; alkanoyloxyalkyl; alkoxyalkyl; aryloxyalkyl; mercaptoalkyl; alkylthioalkyl; alkylsulfinylalkyl; alkylsulfonylalkyl; carboxyalkyl; alkoxycarbonylalkyl; arylalkoxycarbonylalkyl; carbamoylalkyl; aminoalkyl; alkylaminoalkyl; dialkylaminoalkyl; guanidinoalkyl; alkoxycarbonylaminoalkyl; 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl(Fmoc)aminoalkyl; alkenyl; cycloalkyl; cycloalkylalkyl; and arylalkyl optionally substituted with halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, or alkoxy, and R^2, R^4 and R^6 are each independently a group selected from linear or branched alkyl having up to 8 carbon atoms; hydroxyalkyl; alkanoyloxyalkyl; alkoxyalkyl; aryloxyalkyl; alkylthioalkyl;

alkylsulfinylalkyl; alkylsulfonylalkyl; carboxyalkyl; alkoxycarbonylalkyl; arylalkoxycarbonylalkyl; carbamoylalkyl; aminoalkyl; alkylaminoalkyl; dialkylaminoalkyl; alkoxycarbonylaminoalkyl; alkenyl; cycloalkyl; cycloalkylalkyl; and aryl or arylalkyl which are optionally substituted with halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, or alkoxy.

2. The ABC transporter inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the cyclic depsipeptide is a compound of the formula (II):



(II)

wherein $R^{1'}$, $R^{3'}$ and $R^{5'}$ are each independently linear or branched lower(C_{1-4})alkyl.

3. The ABC transporter inhibitor according to claim 2, wherein the groups represented by $R^{1'}$, $R^{3'}$ and $R^{5'}$ are linear or branched propyl or butyl.

4. The ABC transporter inhibitor according to claim 3, wherein $R^{1'}$ and $R^{3'}$ are each isopyropyl, and $R^{5'}$ is any one of the

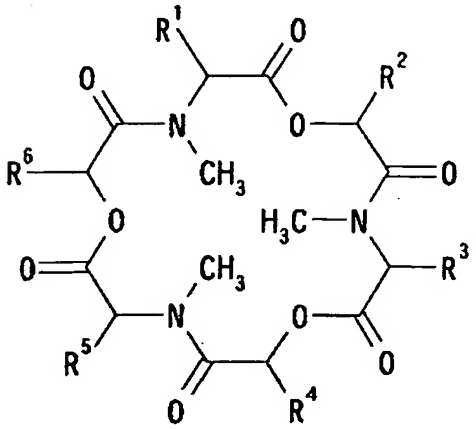
groups selected from isopropyl, sec-butyl, and isobutyl.

5. The ABC transporter inhibitor according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the ABC transporter is MDR protein.

6. The ABC transporter inhibitor according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the ABC transporter is CDR1 or CDR2 protein of *Candida* yeast.

7. The ABC transporter inhibitor according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the ABC transporter is PDR5 protein of *Saccharomyces* yeast.

8. An inhibitor against the acquisition of drug resistance, which comprises as an active ingredient a cyclic depsipeptide or its optical isomer or racemate of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1, R^3 and R^5 are each independently a group selected from linear or branched alkyl having up to 8 carbon atoms;

hydroxyalkyl; alkanoyloxyalkyl; alkoxyalkyl; aryloxyalkyl; mercaptoalkyl; alkylthioalkyl; alkylsulfinylalkyl; alkylsulfonylalkyl; carboxyalkyl; alkoxycarbonylalkyl; arylalkoxycarbonylalkyl; carbamoylalkyl; aminoalkyl; alkylaminoalkyl; dialkylaminoalkyl; guanidinoalkyl; alkoxycarbonylaminoalkyl; 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl(Fmoc)aminoalkyl; alkenyl; cycloalkyl; cycloalkylalkyl; and arylalkyl optionally substituted with halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, or alkoxy, and R^2, R^4 and R^6 are each independently a group selected from linear or branched alkyl having up to 8 carbon atoms; hydroxyalkyl; alkanoyloxyalkyl; alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl; alkylthioalkyl; alkylsulfinylalkyl; alkylsulfonylalkyl; carboxyalkyl; alkoxycarbonylalkyl; arylalkoxycarbonylalkyl; carbamoylalkyl; aminoalkyl; alkylaminoalkyl; dialkylaminoalkyl; alkoxycarbonylaminoalkyl; alkenyl; cycloalkyl; cycloalkylalkyl; and aryl or arylalkyl which are optionally substituted with halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, or alkoxy.